

Rollcall No. 251, H.R. 3971—To provide for an independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment, or burnover, "yes".

Rollcall No. 252, H.J. Res. 95—To designate an official flag of the Medal of Honor and providing for presentation of that flag to each recipient of that Medal of Honor "yes".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 252, 251, 250, and 249, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### BRONZE STAR EVENT

#### HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, in a year of honoring heroes, on July 2, 2002, I will have the privilege to honor nine men in my district for their heroism and bravery. These men all fought in World War II and were never awarded the Bronze Stars, which they rightfully earned more than 50 years ago.

These veterans, like countless other men and women of their generation, heard the call and bravely fought to defend the United States and our allies. They put the early years of their adult lives on hold to fight in the deserts of Africa, the islands of the Pacific and in the embattled towns and countrysides of Europe. Some of these soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice and never returned from the war. The fortunate ones who came home made sure to take their civic responsibility to heart. Having defended our freedoms on the battlefield, they realized the importance of preserving these same freedoms at home. Like veterans of all wars, those who fought in World War II continue to play a vital role in our communities by voting, participating in civic affairs and sharing their stories with younger generations so that their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the nine men who will finally receive their Bronze Stars on July 2, 2002: Charles Anders of Redmond who served in Europe, Harold Enger of Bothell who served in Europe and Africa, The late Charles Iffland who served in Europe and Africa, The late William Nielsen who served in Europe, James Owens of Redmond who served in Europe, Ernest Schaefer of Kirkland who served in the Pacific, Trevor Wilkinson of Redmond who served in Europe, Robert Zappone of Kenmore who served in Europe, The late Elmer Peal, who gave his life for his country while serving in the Philippines.

I am proud to have these men and their families in my district. They are true American Heroes.

#### HONORING THE NORTHEAST ALLISON COMMEMORATION COMMUNITY PROJECT

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor the men and women who were a part of the Northeast Allison Commemoration Community Project. This project was composed of citizens, community leaders, civic clubs, churches, and local government and business who banded together for each other after the devastating flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison.

Last June, when Allison began moving into the Houston area, few had any idea the disaster that lay ahead. Over the week beginning June 6, Allison sat over Houston, Texas, and dumped rainfall in excess of 10"-15", with some areas in the 29th District receiving over 30", with the majority of that falling in a 24 hour period.

Flooding from this storm was severe and widespread, with streets and freeways impassible, residents being rescued from their roofs just before their homes were completely submerged, and schools and other public places transformed into hastily-organized shelters.

The damage to both homes and businesses was estimated at over \$5 billion. However, that total is low, when you consider the inability to completely replace treasured mementos and other valuables that were left behind and washed away or ruined by floodwaters.

In the aftermath of this disaster, the Northeast Allison Commemoration Community Project was formed. This organization helped address the overwhelming sense of helplessness with crisis counseling; strengthened the unity of the community; served as a remembrance to those who lost their lives; and brought healing to the devastated neighborhoods.

This Saturday, the Project will hold a gathering to celebrate their recovery. This gathering will allow members of this community an opportunity to close the door on this difficult period. However, the bonds which were forged and strengthened by this flood will continue, as we all work together in the future.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS L. PIROZZI

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas L. Pirozzi and offer heartfelt congratulations for a successful Battalion Command. Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi is the commanding officer of the 626th Forward Support Battalion, stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and currently on duty near Kandahar, Afghanistan. On July 8, 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi will be changing command in Afghanistan and will subsequently return to the United States for his next assignment, in Washington, D.C.

Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi was born in Bayonne, New Jersey on November 6, 1961 to

Eli and Elaine Pirozzi. He graduated from Bayonne High School and was commissioned into the Quartermaster Corps through the Rutgers University ROTC program, where he earned a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and American Literature. Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi also holds a Masters of Military Science Degree from the Marine Corps University at Quantico, Virginia.

Prior to taking command of the 626th Forward Support Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi served in a number of positions around the world, including Chief of Logistics Information Systems for the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany; Executive Officer, 82nd Forward Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division and XVIII Airborne Corps Airdrop Officer at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Forward Area Support Coordination Officer (FASCO), 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and Commander, 53rd Quartermaster (Airdrop Support), Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi's awards and decorations are as impressive as his service around the world. They include, the Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Campaign Medal (with two Bronze Star Devices), Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Liberation Medals, the Air Assault Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Parachute Rigger badge.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear through his numerous assignments and awards that Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi has served his country with honor and pride. Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his service to our country and to the cause of Freedom, not only here at home, but abroad. I would also ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Lieutenant Colonel Pirozzi home from Afghanistan and wishing him good fortune in his new assignment in Washington, D.C.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHERYL BAKER

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 25, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to pay tribute to Cheryl Baker who was recently appointed as Mayor of Cortez. This is a special occasion for both Cortez and Cheryl, the first woman to be elected Mayor of Cortez. This position is a reflection of Cheryl's hard work and dedication to improving life for the citizens of Cortez.

The Cortez City Council unanimously nominated Cheryl for the position of mayor by merit of her hard work and leadership skills, which she has so often demonstrated. I am confident that they will serve her well throughout the course of her term and although Cheryl will undoubtedly face many difficult challenges and decisions in the following months, she has clearly exhibited a dedication and willingness to tackle any obstacles that may lie ahead.

Cheryl has expressed considerable concern about the financial state of Cortez and has already begun development on a five-year plan